Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 So. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715

February 3, 1997

TO: Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O.200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801 Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Director's Office
- Parks Division
- Fisheries Division
- Wildlife Division
- Lands Section
- Design & Construction Bureau
- Legal Unit
- FWP Commissioners
- Dennis Flath

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624
Gallatin Co. Commissioners, Gallatin Co. Courthouse, 311 W. Main, Room 301, Bozeman, MT 59715
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715
Skyline Sportsman's Assoc., Box 173, Butte, MT 59701
Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711
Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Assoc., P.O. Box 663, Whitehall, MT 59759
Prickly Pear Sportsman's Assoc., 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Three forks Ponds Development Project which is the enhancement of existing facilities and to provide additional recreational opportunities for the Three Forks community, other Montana residents and nonresident visitors. The draft EA is submitted for your consideration.

Questions and comments will be accepted from February 3, 1997 through 5 p.m. March 4, 1997. The Draft EA may be viewed at or obtained upon request from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, at the Region 3 Headquarters in Bozeman (994-4042), the Helena Area Resource Office (449-8864), and the Butte Area Resource Office (494-1953). **All comments should be sent to the FWP office at 1400 So. 19th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59715.**

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Lewis

Stephen L. Lewis
Regional Supervisor

Gallatin

DRAFT

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Three Forks Ponds Development Project
   Enhancement of existing facilities and provide additional recreational opportunities for Three Forks community, Montana residents and non-resident visitors.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

   MCA 23-1-102, 23-1-107 and 23-1-110

3. **Name of Project** Three Forks Ponds Development Project

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

   Three Forks Economic Development Council
   P.O. Box 874
   Three Forks, MT 59752 CONTACT: Pat Wherely 285-3198

5. **If Applicable:**

   Estimated Construction/Commencement Date April, 1997 depending on approval date
   Estimated Completion Date One month after commencement date
   Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 95%

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**

   Gallatin County, Range 1 East, Township 2 North, Section 25, SE ¼.

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

   (a) Developed:
   residential ..... 0 acres
   industrial ..... 0 acres

   (b) Open Space/Woodlands/
   Recreation ... 16.5 acres

   © Wetlands/Riparian
   Areas ..... 0 acres

   (d) Floodplain ..... 0 acres

   (e) Productive:
   irrigated cropland ..... 0 acres
   dry cropland ..... 0 acres
   forestry ..... 0 acres
   rangeland ..... 0 acres
   other ..... 0 acres

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 ½" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.** Attached

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

See the Three Forks Ponds Development Grant Proposal and attachments for details.

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

Agency Name	Permit #	Date Filed
Gallatin County Sanitation		
Army Corp of Engineers	404	Verbally approved & referred to MT BOH
Montana Board of Health	404	Under review
Dept. Of Environmental Quality		
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	HB495	Under review

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
Travel Montana	$19,000
Three Forks Economic Development Council	$ 3,830
Three Forks Chamber of Commerce	$ 2,500

© Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name	Type of Responsibility
City of Three Forks	Annual Management and Maintenance

11. **List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**

Gallatin County Sanitation
Army Corp of Engineers
Montana Board of Health
City of Three Forks
Royal Rice - FWP Design & Construction Bureau
Ray Heagney - FWP Operation Specialist, Region 3
Jerry Walker - FWP Regional Parks Manager, Region 3
Clint Blackwood - Travel Montana
Montana State Library - Natural Resource Information System
State Historic Preservation Office of the Montana Historical Society
Jeff Erikson - FWP Planner, Parks Division

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the Impacts of the Proposed Action Including Secondary and Cumulative Impacts on the Physical and Human Environment:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
▸ a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			1B
▸ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1B) A disturbance and removal of 450 cubic feet of soil along the beach area is proposed. This removal of soil is an action to bring area to grade and purposely reduce productivity of the soil in the beach area to allow an area of flora-free beach sand. The following mitigating actions will be taken to lessen the impact of the placing of gravel and sand offshore. A silt fence will be placed along the pond's shoreline approximately 15' to 20' out into the water to deter drift of silt into the larger portion of the pond. This silt fence will remain in place until the offshore fill is completed.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
▸ a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e.♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated. Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

☼ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. WATER **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
▸ a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X		YES	3A
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
I. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3A) The estimated three hours of placing pit-run gravel and sand for beach area will cause a minor turbid disturbance. The following mitigating actions will be taken to lessen the impact of the placing of gravel and sand. A silt fence will be placed along the pond's shoreline approximately 15' to 20' out into the water to deter drift of silt into the larger portion of the pond. This silt fence will remain in place until the offshore fill is completed.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			4A
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		YES	4E
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: None						4G

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4A) Placement of the shelter belt will increase the abundance of plant species. These trees and shrubs will be native to the area and will only have a minor impact on vegetation environment.

4E) In accordance with the regional Fish, Wildlife & Parks noxious weed management plan, funding to assure annual weed control will be provided by the City of Three Forks. Noxious weed control will take one or a combination of the following methods and techniques:

Manual techniques involve grubbing with shovels, hoes etc. and hand-pulling noxious weeds
Cultural techniques include burning, mowing, tilling, reseeding and grazing.

4G) The proposed Arboretum planned for Phase II will have a positive educational impact. Interpretive signs will identifies native plants.

☼ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

▸ 5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
I. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish/Wildlife Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		YES	6A
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6A) During the project, heavy equipment and haulage trucks will increase the noise levels. The implementation dates are scheduled to be when daytime use is very low to none.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?			X			7B
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7B) The Arboretum proposed for Phase II will increase educational opportunities. It will have signage that identifies native plants. Biology classes from nearby schools and others interested in botany can see and study these plants in their native environment.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				8C
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8C) Swimming is a pre-existing public use of the ponds. The proposed beach will have signs indicating that individuals swim at their own risk, and that there is no lifeguard on duty.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				9B
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			9E
f. Other: None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9B) The ponds development project hopes to keep the social structure in the community as it is today. The community has a small town and rustic atmosphere that encourages outdoor and family activities.

9E) With the development of pond 1 there will be an increase in the traffic, automobiles, bicycles and pedestrians on Talc Road. A road sign is advised for slowing traffic through this area. This will not cause a problem as this is not a main road for city traffic.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:			X			10A
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
▸ e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
▸ f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X			10F
g. Other: None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

▸ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10A) The City of Three Forks will budget for the routine maintenance of the latrine facility, trash collection, and parking lot. The police already patrol the area as part of their routine watch. The site will remain in its natural primitive state, hence the low costs. Road maintenance cost will increase due to more traffic. A plan will be implemented in conjunction with the County Road Department to monitor traffic and the costs associated with the increase of traffic (if any).

0F) Projected maintenance cost is budgeted at $800.00 per year.

Latrine Upkeep	$500 per year
Trash Collection	no charge
Parking Lot Upkeep	$200.00 per year
Security	No additional charge - already provided
Mowing	$100.00 per year

☼ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

▸ 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X			11A
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▸c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X		YES	11C
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11A) The proposed shelter belt will partially block views from one pond to another. However, the overall aesthetics of the area will be improved because of the increase of trees and shade and noise barriers they create.

11C) The proposed action is expected to have positive impacts in providing additional opportunities to community as well as tourists. The project will be a great asset to our town, providing quality swimming, picnicking, and fishing opportunities not currently available. Tourists will have another reason to increase their length of stay in Three Forks, benefiting the local economy.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
▸a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? **Attach SHPO letter of clearance.** (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: None						

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.			X			13G

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

13G) A Federal 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is required. Application for this permit was made on April 1, 1996. A 3A Permit is required from Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Water Quality Bureau. The 3A permit has been applied for and will be obtained prior to project initiation.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative I: No Action - Under this action the Three Forks Ponds would retain their current characteristics and the request or enhancement of existing facilities would be denied.

Alternative II: Authorize Development Proposal - Under this action the Three Forks Ponds development proposal would be approved in accordance with the attached development plan.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

The proposal has satisfied the necessary permitting processes for the appropriate overseeing state and federal agencies.

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

No significant issues were identified through the EA to trigger further review in an EIS. Actions proposed under the development plan were reviewed and mitigated for those minor impacts that were noted and that might occur.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

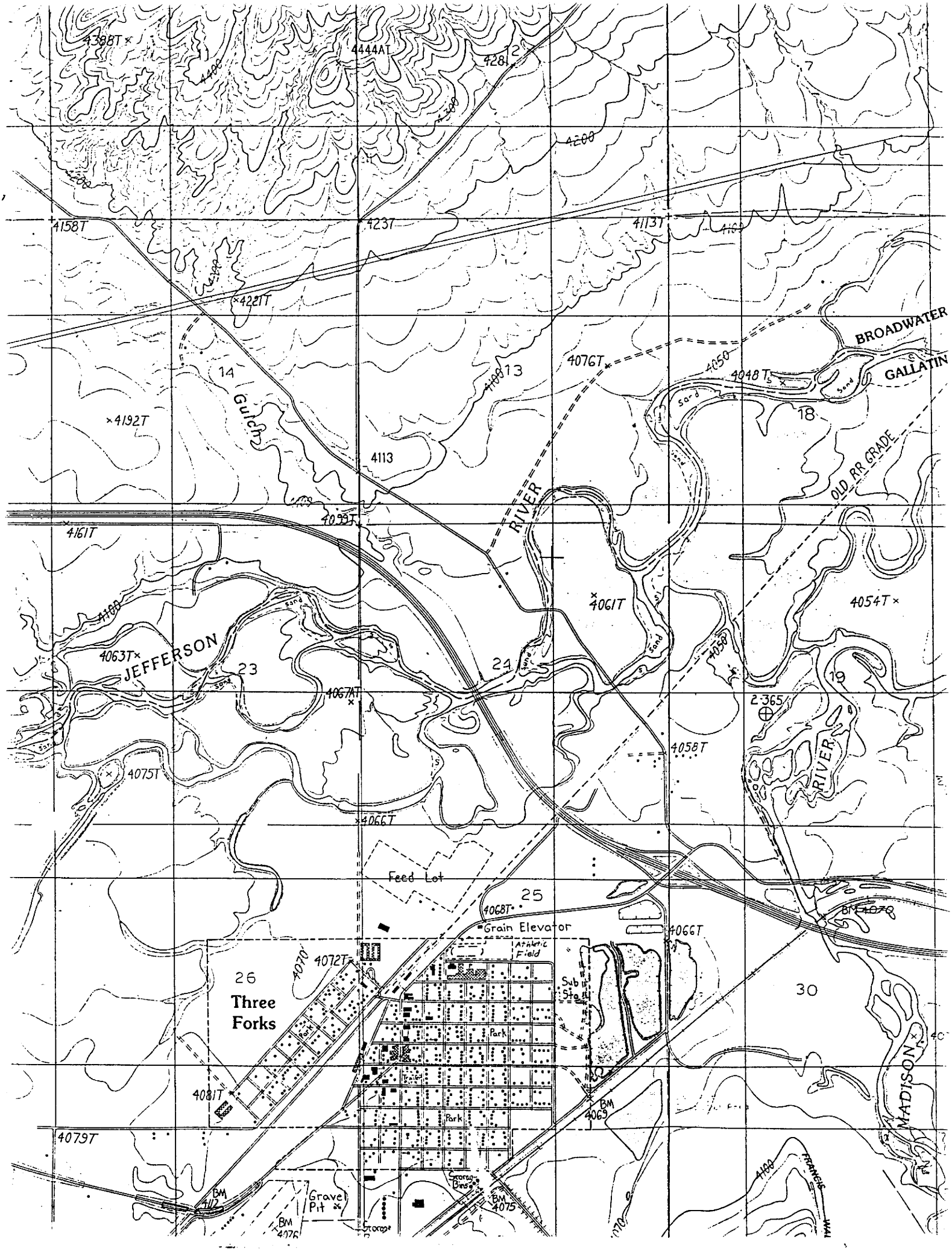
ıblic involvement was conducted in the form of consulting with Three Forks city commissioners and community leader. ınal authorization of the preferred alternative is held by the Fish, Wildlife & Park's Region Three Supervisor.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

A thirty day public comment period has been established to let the general public review and make comment on the preferred action (Alternative II). Questions and comments will be accepted from February 3, 1997 through 5 p.m. March 4, 1997.

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Ray Heagney
Parks Operational Specialist
1400 So. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 994-4042


4398T
4444AT
4281
4200
4158T
4237
4113T
4221T
BROADWATER
4076T
4050
4048T
GALLATIN
14
Gulch
13
4192T
4113
18
RIVER
OLD RR GRADE
4161T
4095T
4061T
4054T
4063T
JEFFERSON
23
24
4067AT
4058
19
2.365
RIVER
4058T
4075T
4066T
Feed Lot
25
4068T
Grain Elevator
BM 4070
4066T
Athletic Field
26
Three Forks
4070
4072T
Sub Sta
30
Park
Park
Park
4081T
BM 4069
MADISON
4079T
BM 4072
Gravel Pit
Storage Bins
BM 4075
BM 4076
Storage
FRANCIS

The Three Forks Economic Development Council
and
The Three Forks Chamber of Commerce

submit the following

Three Forks Ponds Development Grant Proposal

to the

Community Tourism Assessment Grant Program

sponsored by
Travel Montana
A Division of the Montana Department of Commerce

on April 30, 1996
First Revision July 5, 1996
Second Revision August 12, 1996

Three Forks Ponds Development Project Grant Proposal

Introduction

The Three Forks Ponds have been in existence for decades. They were originally used as a gravel source for the railroad and Interstate 90. As the gravel was removed, ground water springs eventually filled the gravel pits. They have always been used as a recreational area for various water and outdoor day activities.

The proposed project will enhance the existing facilities and provide more recreational opportunities for community members, in-state visitors and out-of-state tourists. The Master Plan calls for a long range improvement of the area. These improvements include but are not limited to the following: a trail system, picnic areas, a swimming beach, handicap fishing dock, toilet facilities, arboretum and gazebo. This phase of the project will provide the following improvements: swimming beach, toilet facilities, picnic area, and acoustical shelter belt.

Project Sponsors

This project is sponsored and will be implemented by the Three Forks Economic Development Council (EDC) and the Three Forks Chamber of Commerce. These are both non-profit organizations chartered under the state of Montana.

Project Location

The Three Forks Ponds are directly east of Three Forks within the city limits. Nearby landowners include Bill Fairhurst, the Headwaters Golf Association and the residents of Seventh Avenue East. The land is owned by the Fish Wildlife and Parks Department and is leased by the City of Three Forks. The lease automatically renews in November 2002.

Project Scope and Timeline

Description	Start Date[1]	Days to Complete	Upon Approval by:[2]
Master Plan Development	Oct. 1	complete	
Public Beach Development	Oct. 1	3	FWP
Public Toilet Facilities Development	Oct. 1	3	FWP, GCS, MBOH, DEQ
Primary Picnic Area Development	Oct. 1	1	FWP
Shelter Belt Development	Oct. 1	2	FWP
Signage and Reclamation	Oct. 1	1	FWP

This project is expected to take place on three consecutive weekends. Portions of the project can be done simultaneously and should not actually take the 10 days as indicated above.

Notes on Project Scope and Timeline

[1] Depending on FWP approval of Environmental Assessment, the start date could be 10/1/96 or 4/1/97

[2] The following is an explanation of the abbreviation used.

FWP = Fish, Wildlife and Parks
GCS = Gallatin County Sanitation
MBOH = Montana Board of Health
DEQ = Dept. of Environmental Quality

Master Plan and Phase 1 Projected Costs, Hard and Soft Match and Contributors

Description	Hours	Rate	Soft	Hard	Grant	Donor
Planning Costs						
Master Plan Development	50	$6	$300			EDC
Master Plan Map				$600		EDC
Beach Plan				$1,500		EDC
Construction Coordinator				$500		Fundraiser
Construction Coordinator (Cont.)					$500	Travel Montana Grant
Beach Development Costs						
Excavation					$1,100	Travel Montana Grant
Hauling Fill			$2,700			City of TF
Sand (250 cubic yards)				$2,500		Chamber of Commerce
Gravel (250 cubic yards)					$2,500	Travel Montana Grant
Dozer work					$200	Travel Montana Grant
Floating Rope cost					$200	Travel Montana Grant
Floating Rope installation	5	$6	$30			Volunteers
Shovel & Rake work	20	$6	$120			Volunteers
Flotation Device and Rescue Equip				$400		Fundraiser
Public Toilet Facilities						
Two Enclosed Privies w/ windows					$11,500	Travel Montana Grant
Excavation					$200	Travel Montana Grant
Permit Costs				$325		Fundraiser
Shovel & Rake work	10	$6	$60			Volunteers
Public Picnic Area						
Four Concrete Tables					$800	Travel Montana Grant
Transport & Assembly of Tables	20	$6	$120			Volunteers
Barbeque Pit Materials				$200		Fundraiser
Barbeque Pit Construction			$200			High School Shop Students
Dirtwork	25	$6	$150			Volunteers
Shelter Belt						
Trees and Shrubs					$2,000	Travel Montana Grant
Excavation / dozer work					$400	Travel Montana Grant
Hand Dirtwork	32	$6	$192			
Clean-up and Signage						
Native Grass Seed				$24		Fundraiser
Seeding	2	$6	$12			Volunteers
Signage Materials				$200		Fundraiser
Signage installation	20	$6	$120			Volunteers
Total Soft Match			**$4,004**			In-Kind Services
Total Hard Match				**$6,249**		Cash Contributions
Total Match				**$10,253**		
Total Grant Monies Needed					**$19,400**	Travel Montana Grant
Total Project Cost						**$29,653**

This project calls for 134 hours more hours of volunteer time. Three Forks has had a reputation for being able to raise a volunteer workforce. The Headwaters State Park, Headwaters Golf Course and Three Rivers Health Care Clinic are past examples of the larger projects that have been primarily performed by local volunteers. The EDC and Chamber are already soliciting for volunteers and have had a positive response.

This project also calls for $1649 cash contributions. The project sponsors have several means of obtaining these funds. Several members of the EDC will guarantee the necessary funds. However, the project sponsors feel that a fundraiser, possibly a fishing derby, will promote a positive community response and allow many more people to take ownership of the project.

Implementation Administration

The implementation of this phase of the project will be overseen by the project sponsors, the Three Forks Economic Development Council and the Three Forks Chamber of Commerce. The following items will need to be overseen during this project phase:

Contractor bids and selection, permit applications, volunteer labor recruitment and organization, fund-raiser organization, selection of the Construction Coordinator, overseeing overall project, financial administration and time keeping records.

Operation Administration

The City of Three Forks will operate the facilities beyond the initial construction. Annual upkeep and operational costs include sewage pumping, mowing and increased police inspection. It is estimated that these costs will be $800 per year (see attached Management Agreement).

Development Administration

A Master Plan Steering Committee will be formed to coordinate future activities that have been outlined in the Master Plan. This committee will be jointly staffed by the Three Forks Economic Development Council and the Three Forks Volunteer and Parks Improvement Council. Below is a table of future projects, sponsors and implementation dates:

Project	Sponsors	Implementation Date
Second Pond Trail System	Parks Improvement Council	1997
Disabled Fishing Dock	Jerry Armstrong and company	1997
Arboretum	Grow and Tell Garden Club	1998
Gazebo	Jerry Armstrong and company	1999
Third Pond Trail System	Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee	2000

Benefits

The economic benefits can be estimated based on the survey conducted by Neil Christenson and the cost benefit analysis provided by Dr. Shannon Taylor. The cost-benefit analysis demonstrates a net measurable benefit to the private sector of $15024 per annum (see attachment for details).

One of the long standing goals of the Three Forks Economic Development Council is to make Three Forks a destination area for tourists. By providing a greater number of appealing attractions closer to downtown Three Forks, the Economic Development Council can increase the traffic (and dollars) into Three Forks. The Master Plan provides a vision for future enhancements that appeal to more people.

This project will attract week-end travelers and will increase the length of an out-of-state visitor's stay by an extra day. Travelers want someplace to stay, something to eat and most importantly, something to do. There has been a recent increase in overnight accommodations (someplace to stay). The Three Forks area has always had a wide range of restaurants (something to eat). This project will provide more things to do.

The local economy sustained a great blow with the loss of the railroad and many residents relocated. More economic growth opportunities were lost with the building of the interstate that allowed travelers to by-pass Three Forks without stopping. These same ponds that were a by-product of the railroad and interstate again play a potentially important and positive role in our local economy.

The social benefits include more family activity opportunities for locals in a serene and pristine environment. The youth population will have a place to spend quality time in the great outdoors. In these health conscious times, the trail system will provide increase fitness opportunities for both the local and tourist population.

The environmental benefits will be an increased awareness of the ponds and this will spur activities that increase water quality and fish stocking programs. The development of the arboretum will promote awareness of native plants. The overall project continues the beautification process of Three Forks ponds area initially started by the Headwaters Golf Course in 1985.

One concern expressed in the resident tourism survey was the protection of fishing holes on nearby rivers favored by the locals. By developing the ponds and increasing the fish stocking programs, the ponds can become a favorite place for the casual fishing tourist. The swimming beach will provide for activities away from the rivers.

Impact Studies

In order to obtain more information on the economic impact of the project, the project planners met publicly with the members of the Three Forks City Council and Three Forks Chamber of Commerce. Both groups gave strong support for the project and felt the project would economically benefit the community.

To solicit the public's input on the economic, social and environmental impacts, the project planners also met with the Headwaters Golf Association. The Association was concerned about the public accidentally getting onto the golf course. The proposed solution was strong signage. One-on-one meetings with other community leaders also met with strong support.

Community leaders, community groups, and Seventh Avenue residents were invited to a public comment meeting. Strong support was expressed at this meeting. Several ideas for fundraising activities and future improvements were suggested at the meeting. Letters of support were asked for and received.

A number of county and state government agencies are involved in the environmental issues concerning this project. The Army Corps of Engineers has approved the Beach Development project and has referred the impact study to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department has required that the projects environmental assessment be sent to them for approval. The Gallatin County Sanitation Department requires a permit for placement of the privies. In addition, the Variance Board and the Montana Board of Health require permits for this. With all the above agencies involved, the project planners feel that the environmental impact study submitted with the grant proposal can not be considered inadequate.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the following points must be emphasized;

- The ponds have always been a vital part of the community.
- All the residents contacted have expressed support for the project.
- The project will also be an added attraction for tourists, contributing to the long range goals of the tourism development plan. This provides a balance of social and economic impacts.
- Experienced people will be contracted to oversee the construction portion of the project.
- The Master Plan Steering Committee will provide continuity for future projects at the ponds.
- Upon approval by all agencies, the environmental concerns will be fully addressed.

Three Forks Pond
Proposed Beach Development

March 15, 1996

Prepared for

Three Forks Community Tourism Assessment and
The Economic Development Council
Box 874
Three Forks, MT 59752

Prepared by
Inter-Fluve, Inc.
25 N. Willson, Suite 5
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 586-6926

I. INTRODUCTION

This report, done in conjunction with the Three Forks Community Tourism Assessment, presents design plans for proposed development of a public beach on the northwest shore of the West Three Fork Pond (no-wake). Included is a proposed beach layout, estimated material quantities, estimated material costs and associated revegetation recommendations. A drawing with a plan view and cross-section of the proposed beach is also provided. This information is intended to be incorporated with other proposed developments at the Three Forks Ponds, including handicapped-accessible pathways and pond access, additional picnic areas and expanded restroom facilities.

II. BEACH

A. Layout

As shown in the enclosed drawing, the location for the proposed beach is on the west pond, approximately 150 feet northwest of the parking area. It will be approximately 100 feet long, 30 feet wide, with a slope of 10:1. Excavation of approximately 450 cubic yards of earth will be required to meet the desired slope. Additionally, to merge the beach into the existing topography, a varied slope (between 3:1 to 4:1) around the outer (land-side) perimeter of the beach will be constructed and seeded with grass. A single, 6:1 gravel-covered access ramp could provide more gradual access to the beach from the adjacent higher ground if desired.

B. Materials and Methods

1. Excavate beach area. It is estimated that a full day will be needed to excavate the proposed beach area to grade, and prepare the site for a layer of beach sand. Approximately 450 cubic yards of fill will need to be hauled off-site. The slope of the beach area should be 10:1.

2. Fill offshore area. A important component of a beach is the offshore slope extending below the water surface. We recommend that the slope within 15-20 feet of the shore be no greater than 6:1. At this slope, the water depth 18 feet offshore would be 3 feet. Beyond 18 feet, a steeper slope would provide good access for swimmers.

   Because of ice at the time of our site visit, it was not possible to survey the offshore slope. However a map with 5-foot contours was provided by Fish, Wildlife and Parks. This map indicates that the slope is approximately 2:1 immediately offshore, and slightly more gradual away

from the water's edge. The offshore fill cost estimates included in the table below are based on very general quantity estimates and should be adjusted when better survey data is available.

We recommend using an alluvial pit-run gravel for filling the offshore area, should slope modification be necessary. This step should take place after excavation of the beach area and before sand is placed. We estimate this will take two hours of excavator time. An extra 1-2 hours would be needed if beach sand (approximately 100 yd^3) was desired in the shallow offshore area.

3. Sand placement. Approximately 150 cubic yards of sand should be dispersed over the beach area to a depth of at least 1.5 feet. This should require 1-2 hours of bulldozer time.

4. Final grading. To merge the beach into the existing topography, earthen slopes ranging from 3:1 to 4:1 will provide the transition from the beach to upland areas along the outer perimeter of the beach. Most of the necessary excavation of this transition area should be done during initial beach excavation, but final grading and recontouring should be done before heavy equipment is removed from site. Finally, if access points more gradual than 4:1 are desired, they should be built with an excavator at this time.

C. Costs

Work Item	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1. Excavate beach area		
a. Excavator (8 hrs)	$100 /hr	$800
b. Haul 450 yds^3 of fill	$6 /$yd^3$	$2,700
2. Fill offshore area		
a. 250 yd^3 pit run gravel	$10 /$yd^3$	$2,500
b. Place gravel (2 hrs excavator)	$100 /hr	$200
c. 100 yd^3 sand	$10 /$yd^3$	$1,000
d. Place sand (1 hour excavator)	$100 /hr	$100
3. Beach construction		
a. Grading (2 hrs dozer)	$50 /hr	$100
b. Sand (150 yd^3)	$10 /$yd^3$	$1,500
c. Place sand (2 hrs dozer)	$50 /hr	$100
	Estimated Total Cost	**$9,000**

D. Permitting

A federal 404 permit (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act) from the US Army Corps of Engineers is required for any earth-moving and construction adjacent to a body of water. Since the Three Forks Ponds are "man-made", it is likely that such a permit could be obtained without much difficulty. However, sufficient time (up to several months) should be allowed for the permit application process.

III. REVEGETATION

Two specific areas have been identified as potential revegetation areas. We advise the use of drought tolerant native trees and shrubs since these plants are low maintenance and relatively cost effective.

A. Beach edge

The transition areas from the beach elevation to the upland terrace will be an earthen slope (3:1 to 4:1). This area should be seeded with hardy turfgrasses such sheep fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. Additionally, this would be an ideal place to plant scattered clumps low-growing shrubs such as dwarf juniper (*Juniper horizontalis*).

B. Edge of pond

Plantings of shrubs along the north end of the middle pond (wake) are desired to provide a visual and noise buffer from power boats and jet skis. Recommended plants include the following shrubs and trees: serviceberry (*Amelianchier alnifolia*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*), and sumac (*Rhus* sp.). An area approximately 300 feet long extending from west from the parking area, and 15 feet wide would require approximately 200 plants if planted on 5-foot centers. Another area that would benefit from plantings is just south to the proposed beach, between the road and the pond.

C. Cost

Cost of plant material will depend on the size of plants desired, and the type of plant materials purchased. For the beach edge, the best source for juniper is Bitterroot Restoration in Hamilton, MT (406-961-4991). Juniper tublings sell for approximately $1.00 each. For the edge of the middle pond (wake), bare-root stock is the most cost effective type of plant material, as long as plants can be installed in the spring. The state nursery in Missoula (406-542-4300) sells 10-18" tall plants for approximately $30 per hundred. Taller bare-root plants can be purchased from local nurseries, but at substantially higher cost (between $5 and $20 each).

MANAGEMENT GOALS AND DIRECTION

A: MANAGEMENT GOAL

Three Forks Ponds will be managed in a way which will preserve the natural character of the site and at the same time provide opportunities for appropriate types of public recreation use and enjoyment.

B: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND CONSTRAINTS

1. **Resource management**:
The landscape is to be managed in a manner to preserve and highlight the natural aspects of the ponds.

2. **Maintenance:**
City park standards will be followed in maintaining facilities which the public uses on a regular basis.

3. **Water rights:**
All rights to the use of water on the property will be retained by the state.

4. **Solid waste disposal:**
Wastes generated within the site may be disposed of within designated trash receptacles or removed off the site to an appropriate location.

5. **Wildlife habitat**:
Vegetation and wildlife will be managed to produce optimum habitat for wildlife where not consistent with landscape management.

6. **Wildlife species:**
Special consideration will be given to encourage an abundance of watchable wildlife, both in species and in numbers, for the enjoyment of the public.

7. **Domestic animal control:**
A dog owner may not cause or permit any dog to run loose, or walk a dog or other domestic animal on a leash or lead longer than (6) feet. An exception to the above rule is when dog(s) are training in or near the ponds. Further, owner or person having custody of said dog or other domestic animal will remove and properly dispose of the animal's solid waste (fecal material).

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION

Issues addressed under this section will also be addressed in the site development plan. These issues represent both current and future impacts.

KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Development of Pond Facilities:

With an emphasis on maintaining the natural characteristics of the site, the level to which facility development shall occur at the Three Forks Ponds should not exceed the need to provide basic public service. These services shall meet public health and safety standards Development of the site is to accomplish a number of goals, which include protecting the natural resources and providing for the visitors' health, safety and enjoyment. Site development must consider future maintenance costs and capabilities. Future and new development will meet standards employed for all public recreational facilities. Development and construction projects will be completed through sequential phases. Each project will minimize impacts to the site's environment. An effort should be made to minimize disruption of use of the site during construction phases.
All construction projects will incorporate design standards which will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Public Management Parameters:

Administration of the Three Forks Ponds will be carried out by the City of Three Forks. The City's police department will provide security for the area.

* Hours
* Signs
* Security
* Existing Uses:
    - swimming
    - fishing
    - boats
    - dogs
    - special events
* City Prohibited Uses

FUTURE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Resource Management and Uses

1. *Landscape management*

a. Facility locations:
All future facility construction or relocation will be done with the intent of centralizing services and maximizing landscape disturbance and safety hazards.
Any facility construction and/or landscaping beyond what is described in the management and site plans must be reviewed through the Montana Environmental Policy Act and House Bill 495 guidelines prior to work being initiated.
(See Appendix I for MEPA 7 HB495 guidelines)

b. Land adjustments:
The City of Three Forks will seek to manage and provide for park and recreation uses only on public lands within this area.

2. *Visitor Use and Facility Development*

a. Master site plan:
A master site plan will be prepared to guide resource management, visitor use and facility development. All permanent development will be in accordance with the management and master site plan.

b. Recreational Activities:
Appropriate recreational uses which facilitate visitor appreciation of natural scenic, scientific and recreational values and enjoyment of the site's primary resources will be encouraged and provided for. Day use will be designed and located to take maximum advantage of the recreation and interpretive value of these resources.

c. Overnight camping:
Camping will be prohibited, accept by special permission of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department or from the City of Three Forks.

d. Trails:
Nature trails and foot trails for visitors will be developed to provide access to the area

e. Motor Vehicles:
Motor vehicles, except for administrative purposes, will not be allowed off the road.

3. ***Existing Or Potential Development Items:***

The site plan details in narrative form those development projects listed below and particular construction phases in which they occur.

The proposed recreational development consists of the following elements:

* Picnic pavilion
* Fishing dock
* Trials
* Interpretive signs
* Beach development
* Landscaping - trees, shrubs, native grass, etc.
* Latrines
* Picnic tables
* Bar-B-Q pedestals

ACTION PLAN

Funding for routine maintenance will be budgeted through the City of Three Forks budgeting process. Funding for capital developments will be provided by the Three Forks Rural Assessment Community Committee with a grant made available through Travel Montana. Phase I of the development site plan will be accomplished with this grant. Phase two & three will be developed by other organizations within the community when funds are available.

SITE DEVELOPMENT:
The development of the site will be completed in three phases.

PHASE 1:

During this phase a 100-foot x 30 foot beach will be developed on the west pond, approximately 150 feet northwest of the parking area. Four concrete picnic tables will be placed in designated areas. A concrete latrine will also be placed near the parking area and the beach area.
(See Appendix II, Proposed Beach Development)

PHASE 2:

In this phase of development trails will be constructed around the site. Signage will also be placed in this phase. Informational signs will be utilized to indicate the administrative rules for City parks.

PHASE 3:

Phase three will include the construction of a picnic pavilion and a fishing dock. Landscaping will be completed in the areas. Interpretive signs will be installed to point out the natural features found on the site.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) activities are specifically oriented toward achieving the goals and objectives set forth in this plan. Routine maintenance activities will follow the Three Forks City's park maintenance guidelines. O&M activities will also include, but are not limited to: developing additional drinking water sources as well as mowing along picnic areas if needed.

ESTIMATED MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS COSTS

All operations will be performed by the City staff.

Security :
Three Forks City Police will be required to provide security for the ponds area.

Litter Control:
Trash containers will be placed and maintained throughout the site to provide adequate waste disposal. Daily, or as per a standard park division schedule, pick up will be made to avoid unsanitary conditions.

Rest Rooms :
Sanitary conditions will be kept at an acceptable standard with cleaning of the facilities scheduled for every other day and pumping when needed from May through September. As use lessens due to weather conditions the facilities will require cleaning and pumping on as need basis.

TOTAL ANNUAL ESTIMATED COST : $800.00

Gene L. Townsend, Mayor

4/29/96

BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS SPREADSHEET
THREE FORKS PONDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Required Information:	Example	Ponds Project
Number of Non-resident Visitor Days:	90,000	6,012
Percent Overnight Visitors:	50.0%	12.0%
Percent Day Visitors:	50.0%	88.0%
Average Daily Expenditure - Overnight Visitors:	$60.00	$35.00
Average Daily Expenditure - Day Visitors:	$20.00	$5.00
Local Income Effect:	35.0%	35.0%
Local Sales Tax Rate:	4.00%	0.00%
Local Government Share of Sales Tax Revenue:	50.0%	0.0%
Other Local Government Revenue:	$0	$0
Cost of Facility:	$7,500,000	$29,500
Useful Life of Facility (Years):	20	20
Discount Rate:	6.00%	6.00%
Local Share of Facility Costs:	50.0%	100.0%
Annual Operation & Maintenace Costs:	$264,000	$0
Annual Promotion Costs:	$23,000	$500
Annual Costs to Local Government:	$75,000	$800
Other Local Costs:	$0	$0
Length of Season (Days)	120	210

Benefit/Cost Estimates:	Annual Benefit		Annual Costs	
	Private	Public	Private	Public
Local Income:	18,096			
Local Tax Revenue:		0		
Facility Construction:			2,572	
Operation and Maintenance:			0	
Promotion:			500	
Local Government				800
Other Local Costs			0	
Total	18,096	0	3,072	800

Net Measurable Benefits:		B/C Ratio:	
Private:	$15,024	Private:	5.89
Public:	($800)	Public:	0.00
Combined:	$14,224	Combined:	4.67

Breakeven Visitation:	Total		Per Day	
Private:	1,021	NR Visitor Days	5	NR Visitors/Day
Public:	#DIV/0!	NR Visitor Days	#DIV/0!	NR Visitors/Day
Combined:	#DIV/0!	NR Visitor Days	#DIV/0!	NR Visitors/Day

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
215 NORTH 17TH STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-4978

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

May 3, 1996

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Federal Building, 301 South Park
Room 246, Drawer #10014
Helena, Montana 59626

Patricia Wherley
Three Forks Tourism Committee
P.O. Box 874
Three Forks, Montana 59752

Dear Mrs. Wherley:

Reference is made to your Department of the Army (DA) application dated April 8, 1996, for authorization to develop ponds located in Section 25, Township 2 North, Range 1 East, Gallatin County, Montana.

Based upon the information provided, this office has determined that your work within Montana is authorized by Department of the Army Nationwide Permit found at 33 CFR Part 330 Appendix A, (B)(26). Enclosed is a fact sheet which describes this Nationwide Permit and lists the General and/or Section 404 Only conditions which must be adhered to for this authorization to remain valid.

Although an individual Department of the Army permit will not be required for your project, this does not eliminate the requirement that you obtain any other applicable Federal, state, tribal and local permits as required. Please note that deviations from the original plans and specifications of your project could require additional authorization from this office. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality, has waived 401 Water Quality Certification for your project.

You are advised that this verification of this Nationwide Permit authorization is valid until January 21, 1997.

If you have any questions concerning this determination, please feel free to contact Doug McDonald of this office at (406) 441-1375 and reference Nationwide Permit Action Number 199690208.

Sincerely,

Robert E. McInerney

Robert E. McInerney
Montana Program Manager

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
215 NORTH 17TH STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-4978

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

May 3, 1996

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Federal Building, 301 South Park
Room 246, Drawer #10014
Helena, Montana 59626

Patricia Wherley
Three Forks Tourism Committee
P.O. Box 874
Three Forks, Montana 59752

Dear Mrs. Wherley:

Reference is made to your Department of the Army (DA) application dated April 8, 1996, for authorization to develop ponds located in Section 25, Township 2 North, Range 1 East, Gallatin County, Montana.

Based upon the information provided, this office has determined that your work within Montana is authorized by Department of the Army Nationwide Permit found at 33 CFR Part 330 Appendix A, (B)(26). Enclosed is a fact sheet which describes this Nationwide Permit and lists the General and/or Section 404 Only conditions which must be adhered to for this authorization to remain valid.

Although an individual Department of the Army permit will not be required for your project, this does not eliminate the requirement that you obtain any other applicable Federal, state, tribal and local permits as required. Please note that deviations from the original plans and specifications of your project could require additional authorization from this office. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality, has waived 401 Water Quality Certification for your project.

You are advised that this verification of this Nationwide Permit authorization is valid until January 21, 1997.

If you have any questions concerning this determination, please feel free to contact Doug McDonald of this office at (406) 441-1375 and reference Nationwide Permit Action Number 199690208.

Sincerely,

Robert E. McInerney

Robert E. McInerney
Montana Program Manager

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR

LEE METCALF BUILDING
1520 EAST SIXTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 444-6697
FAX (406) 444-1804

PO BOX 200901
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0901

Att: Ray Heerdt

December 31, 1996

Patricia Wherley
Executive Director
Three Forks Economic Development Council
Box 874
Three Forks, MT 59752

RE: Authorization No. MT-227-96 Short-Term Exemption from Surface Water Quality Turbidity Standards VALID April 15, 1997 through December 30, 1997.

Dear Ms. Wherley:

We have completed our review of your application for activity on Three Forks Ponds in Gallatin County. This activity is herewith exempt from the applicable Montana surface water quality turbidity standards if it is carried out in accordance with the following conditions:

(1) Construction activities in or near the watercourse are to be limited to the minimum area necessary, and conducted so as to minimize increases in suspended solids and turbidity which may degrade water quality and damage aquatic life outside the immediate area of operation,

(2) The use of machinery in the watercourse shall be avoided unless absolutely necessary. To prevent leaks of petroleum products into waterways, no defective equipment shall be operated in the watercourse or adjacent areas capable of contributing surface flow to the watercourse,

(3) Precautions shall be taken to prevent spillage of any petroleum products, chemicals or other deleterious material in or near the watercourse, and no equipment shall be fueled or serviced in adjacent areas capable of contributing surface flow to the watercourse,

(4) All disturbed areas on the streambank and adjacent areas created by the construction activity shall be protected with temporary erosion control during construction activities. These areas shall be reclaimed with appropriate erosion control measures and revegetated to provide long-term erosion control,

(5) Any excess material generated from this project must be disposed of above the ordinary high water mark, not classified as a wetland, and in a position not to cause pollution to State waters,

(6) Clearing of vegetation will be limited to that which is absolutely necessary for construction of the project,

(7) The use of asphalt or petroleum-based products as riprap is strictly prohibited. Its use as fill material is also prohibited if it is placed in a location where it is likely to cause pollution of State waters,

(8) This authorization does not authorize a point source surface water discharge. A MPDES permit is required for said discharge, and

(9) The applicant must conduct all activities in full and complete compliance with all terms and conditions of any permit for this activity issued pursuant to the Montana Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (310 permit) or the Montana Stream Protection Act (124 permit), and any valid Memorandum of Agreement and Authorization (MAA) negotiated for this activity.

This exemption is valid for the period April 15, 1997 through December 30, 1997, only. No exemption is valid for more than a one-year period of time.

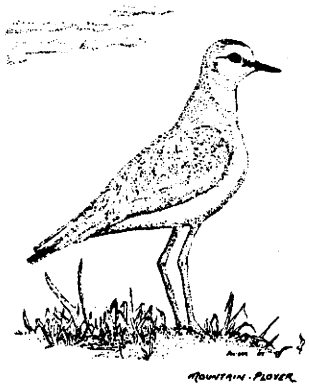
Any violations of the conditions of this authorization may be subject to an enforcement action pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Montana Water Quality Act.

This authorization is granted pursuant to ARM 17.30.637(3a) and only applies to the activity described by your application. Any modification of the activity described in your application which may result in additional turbidity in the stream must receive prior approval from the Department. You may contact me at (406) 444-4626.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ryan
Water Quality Specialist
Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division

JR:mf



MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 444-3009

Ray Heagney
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715

November 22, 1996

Dear Ray,

In response to your request involving the **Three Forks Ponds FAS development project**, I am enclosing 5 element occurrence records and a map showing their locations. Please note that the enclosed map conveys information relevant to the requested area only and is applicable only to this area; it is not intended as a comprehensive display of *all* sensitive species data within its boundaries.

Please note that this report includes sensitive data intended for use within your agency and not for general distribution or publication. In particular, public release of specific location information may jeopardize the welfare of a threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or community. Individuals wishing to obtain additional information should contact the Heritage Program directly. This report may also include data from privately-owned lands, and approval by the landowner may be advisable if specific location information is considered for publication.

The results of a data search by the Montana Natural Heritage Program are not intended as a final statement on sensitive species within a given area, or as a substitute for on-site surveys which may be required for environmental assessments.

I hope that the enclosed information is helpful to you. Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katharine Jurist
Information Request Coordinator
(email: kathy@nris.mt.gov)

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: CASTILLEJA EXILIS
Common Name: ANNUAL INDIAN PAINTBRUSH

Global rank: G5 Forest Service status:
State rank: S1 Federal Status:

Element occurrence code: PDSCR0D0W0.003
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name:
EO rank:
EO rank comments:

County: GALLATIN

USGS quadrangle: LOGAN

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
002N	002E	36	

Precision: G
Survey date: - -
First observation: 1899
Last observation: 1899-08-10
Elevation: 4200 -
Slope/aspect:
Size (acres): 0

Location:
LOGAN (BLANKENSHIP). GALLATIN VALLEY (HAWKINS).

Element occurrence data:
UNKNOWN.

General site description:
WET HILLSIDE QUICKSANDS.

Land owner/manager:
PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)
STATE LAND - UNDESIGNATED

Comments:
ONLY LOCALITY SEEN.

Information source: BOTANIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, HELENA, MT 59620-1800.

Specimens: BLANKINSHIP, J. W. (S.N.). 1899. SPECIMEN #3030. MONT.
HAWKINS, P. H. (S.N.). SPECIMEN #36089. MONT.

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS
Common Name: BALD EAGLE

Global rank: G4 Forest Service status: ENDANGERED
State rank: S3B,S3N Federal Status: LTLE

Element occurrence code: ABNKC10010.136
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: DROUILLARD
EO rank:
EO rank comments: CURRENT

County: GALLATIN
BROADWATER

USGS quadrangle: THREE FORKS

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
002N	001E	33	

Precision: M
Survey date:
First observation: 1992
Last observation: 1995
Elevation: 4080 -
Slope/aspect:
Size (acres):

Location:
ALONG THE JEFFERSON RIVER, CA. 1 MILE SOUTH OF US HWY 287 AND 10 JUNCTION.

Element occurrence data:
RESULTS OF ANNUAL NEST SURVEYS ON FILE AT MTNHP.

General site description:
NEST SITE AND TERRITORY.

Land owner/manager:
PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source: FLATH, DENNIS. 1995. [MEMO OF ? OCTOBER SUMMARIZING SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE MONTANA BALD EAGLE WORKING GROUP.] 8PP.

Specimens:

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: FALCO PEREGRINUS
Common Name: PEREGRINE FALCON

Global rank: G4 Forest Service status: ENDANGERED
State rank: S1S2B,SZN Federal Status: E/SA

Element occurrence code: ABNKD06070.010
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: THREE FORKS
EO rank:
EO rank comments: HISTORIC EYRIE

County: BROADWATER

USGS quadrangle: THREE FORKS SE

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
001N	001E	05	NE4

Precision: M
Survey date: Elevation: 4200 -
First observation: Slope/aspect:
Last observation: Size (acres): 160

Location:
ABOVE THE NW BANK OF THE JEFFERSON RIVER, ABOUT 4 AIR MILES SW OF THREE FORKS, MT.

Element occurrence data:
PEREGRINE HISTORIC EYRIE (HIGH POTENTIAL FOR RE-OCCUPANCY).

General site description:
UNKNOWN.

Land owner/manager:
PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source: FLATH, DENNIS L. MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS, WILDLIFE RESEARCH BUREAU, FWP BUILDING, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, 1400 SOUTH 19TH STREET, BOZEMAN, MT 59717-0001. 406/944-6354.

Specimens:

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: LAMPROPELTIS TRIANGULUM
Common Name: MILK SNAKE

Global rank: G5 Forest Service status:
State rank: S2 Federal Status:

Element occurrence code: ARADB19050.005
Element occurrence type:

Survey site name: THREE FORKS
EO rank:
EO rank comments:

County: GALLATIN

USGS quadrangle: THREE FORKS

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
002N	001E	25	

Precision: G
Survey date: Elevation: -
First observation: 1949-07-17 Slope/aspect:
Last observation: 1949-07-17 Size (acres):

Location:
NEAR THREE FORKS.

Element occurrence data:

General site description:

Land owner/manager:
PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:
SPECIMEN GIVEN TO D. J. NELSON BY MR. LYONS OF "SEE 'EM ALIVE" ZOO IN RED LODGE.

Information source: NELSON, D. J. 1950. LAMPROPELTIS TRIANGULUM GENTILIS IN MONTANA. HERPETOLOGICA 6:41.

Specimens:

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: BIRD ROOKERY
Common Name: BIRD ROOKERY

Global rank: Z Forest Service status:
State rank: Z Federal Status:

Element occurrence code: OROOKERY//.061
Element occurrence type: BIRD ROOKERY

Survey site name: THREE FORKS
EO rank:
EO rank comments:

County: GALLATIN

USGS quadrangle: THREE FORKS

Township:	Range:	Section:	TRS comments:
002N	001E	24	

Precision: M
Survey date: Elevation: 4060 -
First observation: 1991 Slope/aspect:
Last observation: 1991-05-05 Size (acres):

Location:
CA. 1 MILE NORTH OF THREE FORKS, IN THE JEFFERSON RIVER FLOODPLAIN.

Element occurrence data:
GREAT BLUE HERON. 70 NESTS, 39 OCCUPIED.

General site description:
COTTONWOODS ON FLOODPLAIN.

Land owner/manager:
PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source: PARKER, J. AND T. PARKER. 1991. BOX 1688, BOZEMAN, MT 59771. 586-5863. [LETTER OF 5/28/91 WITH ROOKERY SURVEY FORMS.]

Specimens: